

From: William Pieprz [mailto:pieprz@verizon.net]
Sent: Friday, November 27, 2009 9:06 AM
To: Ombudsman Program
Subject: Comments on Ombudsman Notice

Dear Sir,

I have reviewed the federal register notice regarding the proposal to provide an ombudsman pilot program at the USPTO. I have almost forty years of experience in patent prosecution, both within the PTO as well as in private practice and find this proposal to be both unnecessary and unwise.

I find the proposal to be unnecessary because it appears to duplicate the responsibilities of the SPE in ensuring that the examination process is consistent with established procedures. If examination has stalled it should be the SPE's responsibility to unstick it. The imposition of an additional layer of bureaucracy will only render the examination process less efficient, at least due to the numerous communications that will now have to be sent back and forth between the representative of the applicant, the SPE and the Ombudsman.

I also find the proposal to be unwise, particularly in view of the budget challenges facing the USPTO. At a time when the examination backlog is at clearly unacceptable levels and when the PTO's resources have been negatively impacted by the economic environment it would appear to be clear that the patent office's limited resources should be channeled to the examination of patent applications, which is the PTO's core mission.

Accordingly, I hope this program is not implemented.

Best regards,

William Pieprz